

Message Text

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11
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
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R 190514Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6673
INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

S E C R E T BANGKOK 14614

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, TH, BM
SUBJECT: IBMND

REF: A. BANGKOK 14198 B. BANGKOK 14059 C. BANGKOK 13512
D. STATE 151706

1. AS A CONTINUING FOLLOWUP TO INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL D, THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR LAST WEEK RAISED THE IBMND ISSUE WITH ASA SARASIN, SECRETARY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER. HE REFERRED TO AMBASSADOR UNGER'S AUGUST 9 MEETING WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIEN ON THIS SUBJECT (REFTEL C). HE RECALLED THAT PRAPHAT HAD SAID THAT THAILAND'S AGREEMENT WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA CONCERNING THE IBMND HAD BEEN CANCELLED WITHIN THE LAST YEAR, AND THAT THE IBMND HAD BEEN ASKED TO MOVE OUT. YET THE IBMND CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN ITS REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AT HUAI MO IN MAE JAN DISTRICT OF CHIANG RAI PROVINCE, AND THE IBMND TRANITS THAI TERRITORY TO AND FROM BURMA.

2. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR ALSO NOTED THAT THE IBMND INDIRECTLY ASSISTS THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS BY TYING DOWN PART OF THE BURMESE ARMY, AND CITED ARTICLES OF JUNE 16 IN THE BURMESE PRESS BLAMING THE "TAIWAN IBMND" FOR THE
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APRIL 16 KIDNAPPING OF RUSSIAN MEDICAL PERSONNEL AT TUANGGYI. HE THEN STRESSED THAT THE IBMND HAS SUPPORTED BURMESE GROUPS SUCH AS THE KHA KWE YEI THAT ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING.

3. ASA REPLIED THAT THE PRINCIPAL U.S. INTEREST WAS OBVIOUSLY NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION, BUT FOR THE MFA THE IBMND CREATED POLITICAL PROBLEMS AS WELL. ASA LACKED DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT IBMND ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND, BURMA AND YUNNAN BUT SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THE IBMND FURTHER WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CHARTCHAI CHUNHAWAN.

4. COMMENT: ELEMENTS OF THE RTG SUPREME COMMAND GIVE SUPPORT TO CERTAIN BURMESE DISSIDENT GROUPS AS WELL AS TO THE IBMND. THEY LOOK ON THESE FORCES AS AN "ANTI-COMMUNIST" BUFFER SEPARATING NORTH THAILAND FROM THE WHITE FLAG COMMUNIST PARTY IN BURMA AND THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS. THE MFA, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN IMPROVING RTG RELATIONS BOTH WITH THE GUB AND WITH THE PRC. ARMING THE MFA WITH THIS INFORMATION ON THE IBMND SHOULD THUS ENABLE THE MFA, IF IT DECIDES TO PURSUE THE MATTER, TO BETTER CONTEST THE SUPREME COMMAND IN COMPETING FOR A DECISION FROM PRIME MINISTER THANOM KITTIKACHORN ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE IBMND. THIS INFORMATION WILL ALSO BE USEFUL TO CHARTCHAI WHO PLANS TO VISIT THAIPEI IN MID-OCTOBER EN ROUTE HOME FROM THE UNGA.
UNGER

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